

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Business Meeting November 23, 2009 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The November 23, 2009 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, M. Petrus at 7:34 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, M. Petrus announced that this is the Regular Business Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on February 19, 2009. A copy of tonight's agenda was filed with the Township Clerk and the Township Committee, forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the Trenton Times Newspaper, distributed to the various East Amwell Township Committees and Boards, and was posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: M. Petrus, D. Sageser (late), D. Kellogg, F. Clair, S. Parsons, T. Robbi, T. Stahl (Substitute Secretary), K. Hanntz

ABSENT: A. Celebre, L. Lewis, J. Angelone, T. Martin, B. Hummel, D. Holley, K. Haney, J. Corboy (secretary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: October 26, 2009 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the October 26, 2009 business meeting were motioned for approval by F. Clair, and with a second from S. Parsons were approved with no changes/deletions. There was one abstention. K. Hanntz made a correction in the spelling of her name: Hanntz, not Haantz. Also she would like to drop the first initial: M.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA: No last minute additions were presented by members. However, Mr. David Kyle was present to address the Commission on the topic of the Plant Swap. He spoke on behalf Shirley Bershad and expressed the desire to restart the plant swap which was held in previous years during the month of May. He spoke to Dick Ginman and he promised to help. He suggested that it be held in the Municipal Building parking as it was in the past. He suggested May 15 or May 22 between the hours of 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. People usually bring in their own plants and exchange them for others. T. Robbi made the suggestion that we discourage known invasive plants. Members went on to discuss how to educate the public on these known invasive

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plants. Suggestion was made to have examples of these plants available at the plant swap. Advertisement of the Plant Swap was also discussed: website, VIP, and the Spring Newsletter. Motion was made by T. Robbi to hold a Plant Swap Day in May of 2010 and it was seconded by F. Clair. Vote was unanimously in favor. David Kyle was work with T. Stahl in making the arrangements and requesting permission from the Township Committee.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: No bills were presented this evening.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board continued the discussion concerning the draft Tree Harvesting Ordinance. This was an eighteen month process. It was finally approved and will now be forwarded to the Township Committee for their approval. T. Robbi mentioned a 20 acre plot that was recently clear cut in Hopewell under the guidance of a Forest Management Planner.
- b. Township Committee – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the Recycling Committee is requesting a return to the 12 months of Depot Days. They also discussed problems of residents dumping recyclables during off hours – non-recyclables and dumpsters that are full to the top.
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi listed the recent successes of FOSPC: Barbara Hay property of 56 acres is closing, DW Vineyards has closed, Dutch Lane property of 84 acres has signed a contract, 88 acre property on Cider Mill looks promising, Harrison Trust is finishing up (smaller pieces are being worked on). Thirty-eight percent of the Township is preserved.
- e. Smart Growth Grant II – No report received.
- d. Stormwater Committee – D. Kellogg stated that they are meeting with Township Committee tomorrow night to decide if there is a need to continue with this ad-hoc committee. They are continuing to work on private storm water matters and revising current ordinances to meet with the current State Stormwater Regulations. Most of the work is done. They hope to re-group

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Solar Energy Update – Nothing to report from this group..
- b. Website Update – L. Lewis was absent this evening. Thus, no report was given.
- c. Clawson Park – Update – T. Robbi stated that there is information posted in boxes located next to the rain gardens at Clawson Park. Informational brochures from Rutgers are also available at the site. M. Petrus stated that drainage and flooding of surrounding

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properties was recently discussed at the Clawson Park Committee meeting. Maintenance of swales located on private property was also discussed. M. Petrus suggested that the Environmental Commission perform a site visit to try to help with this problem. Members decided that it was a drainage easement problem to be reviewed by the Township engineers.

d. Public Outreach – M. Petrus asked K. Hanntz for a report from the school. K. Hanntz requested another copy of the letter sent to businesses and other establishments that was sent out by the Recycling Committee. The students are collecting metallic wrappers for credit. The Cougar Courier recently had a recycling article and she plans to do another one for a future edition. S. Parsons suggested that an article be planned for the upcoming Spring Plant Swap event. S. Parsons also stated that ANJEC is offering an EQ Challenge game to attract visitors to your event booth. She ordered a basic package so that they could review it and see where we might be able to use it.

e. Conservation Easements – S. Parsons informed members that our proposed letter to homeowners having conservation easements was approved at a recent Township Committee meeting. Confirmation of this approval will be received shortly from T. Stahl. Once confirmation is received, the sub-committee will plan their next steps. S. Parsons also advised members that there is a link on the Township website that will take you to an easement (all easements not just conservation easements) map. The next map to go up will be just conservation easements or the current map may be color-coded to indicate conservation easements.

f. Natural Resource Inventory – B. Hummel was absent this evening. No report was received.

g.. Sustainable Jersey – Green by Design – D. Sageser stated that there was a state-wide awards luncheon in Atlantic City last week. He was unable to attend. He is looking forward to receiving information on the next year's incentive grant programs.

APPLICATIONS FROM PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR REVIEW:

- 1. Block 25, Lot 3.03 (Stover) - Original application was first given to M. Petrus for possible site visit. Site review was done and the application is now in the hands of T. Robbi for the writing of the site visit report. Site review report is not completed yet.**
- 2. Block 30, Lot 8.01 (Geis) - Site review report is enclosed with tonight's agenda.**

NEW BUSINESS: Last Minute Item: T. Stahl called for the Reorganization date for the Environmental Commission to be decided upon. The usual meeting date of the fourth Monday of the month - January 25, 2010 was picked. T. Robbi made the motion and it was seconded by D.Kellogg. Vote was unanimously in favor.

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CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 11/23/09 agenda. There were no last minute items added to this agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: S. Parson mentioned that L. Lewis had started an Environmental page started on the Township website. However, she could not find it on the current website. T. Stahl offered her assistance. She will contact L. Lewis to inquire about it.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 8:20 PM Motion for adjournment was received from F. Clair and S. Parsons seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Joyce S. Corboy, Secretary

These minutes were taken by T. Stahl and transcribed by J. Corboy.

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| cc: Env. Com. Members | Board of Adjustment | Board of Health |
| Twp. Com. & Clerk | Democrat Newspaper | Recreation Com. |
| Twp. Bulletin Brd. | Trenton Times | Recycling Com. |
| Planning Board | Associate Members | Agric. Adv. Com. |
| Farmland & Open Space Preservation | | |